

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for producing a service report for a service performed on a medical device by a service provider, comprising:
- operating a computer system to receive medical device data transmitted automatically to the computer system via a communications network;
- operating the computer system to receive service provider data transmitted automatically to the computer system via the communications network, and
- 10 operating the computer system to generate the service report based on the medical device data and the service provider data.
2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the service provider data
- 15 comprises GPS location data from a remote device transported by the service provider.
3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the service provider data comprises timekeeping data for the service provider.
4. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the medical device is operable to detect an alteration of at least one of medical device hardware and medical device software and the medical device data transmitted automatically by the medical device is representative of the alteration to the medical device.
- 20 5. The method as recited in claim 1, comprising operating the computer system to transmit the service report to a remote device for review by a service provider.
- 25 6. A method for facilitating the preparation of a service report for a medical device; comprising:

providing service data automatically from the medical device to a computer system via a communications network;

providing service provider data automatically to the computer system via a communications network; and

5 generating a service report based on the service data and the service provider data automatically using the computer system.

7. The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the service report comprises a listing of services performed by the service provider based on the service provider data.

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8. The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the service report comprises a listing of parts replaced by the service provider based on the service data.

9. The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the service provider data comprises GPS location data for the service provider and the service report comprises the GPS location data.

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10. The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the service report comprises service time data for the service provider.

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11. The method as recited in claim 6, comprising transmitting the service report from the computer system to a remote device to enable a user to revise the service report.

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12. A medical information system, comprising:

a medical device comprising hardware and software, the medical device being operable to communicate with a remote computer via a communication system, wherein the medical device is operable to detect a change in each of the hardware and the software and to automatically transmit a signal representative of the change to the remote computer.

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13. The medical information system as recited in claim 12, wherein the medical device is a medical imaging system.

14. The medical information system as recited in claims 12, wherein the communication system comprises the network.

15. A computer program, comprising:
programming instructions stored in a tangible medium, wherein the programming instructions enable a processor-based device to produce a service report for a medical device based on medical device data received automatically from the medical device and service provider data received automatically from a remote device.

16. The program as recited in claim 15, wherein the programming instructions enable the processor-based device to produce a service report containing data representative of at least one of a hardware and a software change to the medical device.

17. The program as recited in claim 15, wherein the programming instructions enable the processor-based device to produce a service report containing GPS data for the remote device.

18. The program as recited in claim 1, wherein the remote device is operable to track time used by a service provider to perform a service on the medical device and the service data comprises an indication of the time used by a service provider to perform a service on the medical device and the service data.

19. The system as recited in claim 2, wherein the system enables a user to use the remote device to revise the service report and to transmit the revised service report to the computer system via the network.